

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A paper machine that includes:

at least four belt mechanisms for transferring a wet web formed by a wire part, each of the belt mechanisms having a belt for supporting the wet web and a driving unit for driving the belt together with the wet web;

a press part including one or more press units arranged along a transfer path of the wet web for pressing the wet web so that the wet web is dewatered; and

a dryer part including at least three dryer units arranged along the transfer path of the wet web for drying with heat the wet web after having been dewatered in the press part;

wherein four belt mechanisms of the at least four belt mechanisms are associated with a most downstream press unit of the one or more press units along the transfer path of the wet web in the press part and a first dryer unit, a second dryer unit and a subsequent dryer unit of the at least three dryer units from an upstream side along the transfer path of the wet web in the dryer part, respectively; and

wherein each driving unit of the four belt mechanisms is individually controlled so that transfer speeds of the wet web along the most downstream press unit, the first dryer unit, the second dryer unit and the subsequent dryer unit are individually set so that:

the wet web along the first dryer unit will be transferred at a speed higher than the transfer speed of the wet web along the most downstream press unit but no more than 1.04 times as high as the transfer speed of the wet web along the most downstream press unit;

the wet web along the second dryer unit will be transferred at a speed higher than the transfer speed of the wet web along the first dryer unit but no more than 1.01 times as high as the transfer speed of the wet web along the first dryer unit; and

the wet web along the subsequent dryer unit will be transferred at a speed higher than the transfer speed of the wet web along the second dryer unit but no more than 1.01 times as high as the transfer speed of the wet web along the second dryer unit.

18. (New) A method of controlling a paper machine that includes:

at least four belt mechanisms for transferring a wet web formed by a wire part, each of the belt mechanisms having a belt for supporting the wet web and a driving unit for driving the belt together with the wet web,

a press part including one or more press units arranged along a transfer path of the wet web for pressing the wet web so that the wet web is dewatered, and

a dryer part including at least three dryer units arranged along the transfer path of the wet web for drying with heat the wet web after having been dewatered in the press part,

wherein four belt mechanisms of the at least four belt mechanisms are associated with a most downstream press unit of the one or more press units along the transfer path of the wet web in the press part and a first dryer unit, a second dryer unit and a subsequent dryer unit of the at least three dryer units from an upstream side along the transfer path of the wet web in the dryer part, respectively, and

wherein each driving unit of the four belt mechanisms is individually controllable so that transfer speeds of the wet web along the most downstream press unit, the first dryer unit, the second dryer unit and the subsequent dryer unit can be individually set, said method comprising:

transferring the wet web along the first dryer unit at a speed higher than the transfer speed of the wet web along the most downstream press unit but no more than 1.04 times as high as the transfer speed of the wet web along the most downstream press unit;

transferring the wet web along the second dryer unit at a speed higher than the transfer speed of the wet web along the first dryer unit but no more than 1.01 times as high as the transfer speed of the wet web along the first dryer unit; and

transferring the wet web along the subsequent dryer unit at a speed higher than the transfer speed of the wet web along the second dryer unit but no more than 1.01 times as high as the transfer speed of the wet web along the second dryer unit.